
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE Trustees of the Free Public Library respectfully submit their sixth annual report.

This short Municipal term has closed before we have fairly entered upon active life under the new conditions in which the institution is placed.

The labor of removing the books, putting them in order, their proper arrangement upon the shelves, and the preparation of a Catalogue, has been a work of time, much more indeed than was anticipated; but this could not well have been avoided, as the greatest part of the labor must of necessity be performed by the Librarian alone; but we believe that no pains have been spared to accomplish all these things at the earliest moment consistent with the care and accuracy desirable.

Although the printing of the Catalogue has not been completed, we have thought it best to open the Library for the use of the public, using the Catalogue as far as received, and adding the remaining sheets as they come from the hands of the printer. This course was prompted by a desire to supply as early as possible a great

want of the community—a want more deeply felt, after having been so well supplied with books during the preceding years of the existence of this institution.

It has been very gratifying to observe by the eagerness displayed to avail themselves of its privileges, that the desire for books has not subsided among our large reading population, during the time that they have been deprived of its gratification.

During the six years of the existence of this institution, we have lost 214 volumes, very few of which were of much real value, and can be easily replaced if desirable.

These losses have been owing to the want of a Catalogue, and the necessary exposure of the books in the room where the Library was formerly located, and the causes could not have been removed under the disadvantages of that location; but we believe there will be no such occurrence under the present arrangements.

It has been found necessary to provide an Assistant Librarian, under the new regulations and increased demand for books; and we are glad to say that the manner in which the duties of both Librarian and Assistant are performed, is highly satisfactory.

The Library has been enriched by a generous donation from the Hon. George Howland, Jr., the income from which has been placed at our disposal, and is intended for the purchase of valuable works of science of a more expensive character than we should feel authorized to purchase with the money appropriated by the Municipal government for the increase of the Library. We have anticipated the receipts from this source in the purchases of the past season. For this liberal donation the thanks of the community are due, and we hope it will not long stand alone upon our

records, but only as the pioneer of a long array of benefactions to the great cause of public instruction; and we earnestly invite all those who are willing to enjoy the satisfaction of aiding a good cause, the fruits of which they may see in their own day, to consider the claims of the Free Public Library.

The expenditures for the support of the institution have been rather larger than usual, as it was thought desirable to include as many new books in the Catalogue now being printed as possible. The items are as follows:

For Books,	\$1084.64
“ Fuel,	90.40
“ Salaries,	675.00
“ Rents,	240.00
“ Printing, Stationery, &c.,	56.45
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	\$2146.49

Which leaves a deficit of \$92.32.

The number of books added the last year is 798.

The whole number now belonging to the Library is 10,612.

The number of books issued from March 4th to May 9th, at which time the Library was closed preparatory to removal, was 4798.

The number issued from November 9th, at which time the new rooms were opened, to January 1st, 1858, was 4660.

The number of cards issued in the same time was 1490.

Books and other publications have been received from the following persons:

Hon. George H. Dunbar; Hon. George Howland, Jr.; Hon. James Arnold; Wells S. Baker, Esq.; Mrs. Sarah Coffin; Professor Agassiz, of Cambridge; La Roy Sunderland, of Boston; William Logan Fisher, of Philadelphia; Trustees of the Peabody Institute, of Danvers;

Charles L. Flint, Esq., Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture; A. D. Bache, Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey; Hon. Robert B. Hall, M. C.; State of Rhode Island; D. T. Valentine.

CHARLES ALMY,
Secretary *pro tempore*.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Jan. 2, 1858.

Accepted and ordered to be printed, and sent down for concurrence.

SANFORD S. HORTON, City Clerk.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, Jan. 2, 1858.

Concurred.

I. M. RICHARDSON, Clerk.